

## Community college outcomes

*About 45 percent of first-time undergraduates attend public 2-year colleges. These institutions serve many purposes: they provide vocational training and skill development; they offer an inexpensive way to complete lower division requirements before entering a 4-year institution; and they offer avocational courses for those with special interests. Examining outcomes for students who began their postsecondary education at public community colleges provides insight into how these diverse needs are being met.*

- Among students who began their postsecondary education at a community college in 1989–90, 37 percent completed a degree at some institution by 1994; 22 percent of these students completed a certificate or an associate degree at their first institution. Those who did not complete a credential at their first institution spent a substantial amount of time there—an average of 14 months of enrollment.
- Nineteen percent of those beginning community college in 1989–90 transferred to a public 4-year institution, and 3 percent transferred to a private 4-year institution (see supplemental table 11-1). Of those who transferred to a 4-year institution, 38 percent completed an associate degree before transferring.
- By 1994, 26 percent of those who transferred to a 4-year institution had completed a bachelor's degree, and 44 percent were still enrolled at a 4-year institution.
- The higher a student's socioeconomic status (SES), the more likely that student was to transfer to a 4-year institution: 35 percent of high SES students transferred, compared to 21 percent of middle SES and 7 percent of low SES students (see supplemental table 11-1).

**Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning students at community colleges and average number of months enrolled at first institution, by attainment at first institution and 1994 attainment/enrollment status**

Selected characteristics	Attainment at first institution <sup>1</sup>			1994 attainment at any institution									
				Attained <sup>2</sup>						No degree			
				Certificate			Associate			Enrolled			
				Not en-rolled at	Enrolled at		Not en-rolled at	Enrolled at		Enrolled			
	None	Certi-ficate	Asso-ciate	Total	4-year	4-year	4-year	4-year	lor's	Total	4-year <sup>3</sup>	4-year	rolled
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>48.6</b>
Age as of 12/31/89													
18 years or younger	71.6	2.6	25.9	47.4	8.0	1.4	19.7	6.4	11.9	14.9	7.5	7.4	37.7
19 years	79.5	5.8	14.7	31.9	12.7	0.0	13.2	3.9	2.2	20.8	12.7	8.1	47.3
20-29 years	83.1	6.5	10.4	27.3	16.4	0.0	6.5	1.8	2.5	13.0	11.2	1.8	59.8
30 years or older	86.0	8.9	5.1	25.7	18.2	0.0	6.3	0.6	0.6	9.2	9.2	0.0	65.1
Enrollment status, first term													
Full time	68.7	5.4	25.9	45.7	10.3	1.0	17.5	6.0	11.0	11.7	5.7	6.0	42.7
At least half, less than full time	84.9	2.8	12.3	28.3	10.9	0.6	13.2	1.8	1.8	22.8	17.0	5.8	48.9
Less than half time	87.7	6.6	5.8	27.1	16.9	0.0	6.7	0.6	2.2	13.0	9.3	3.7	59.9
First transfer													
Did not transfer	78.7	7.7	13.5	23.1	8.9	( <sup>4</sup> )	14.1	( <sup>4</sup> )	( <sup>4</sup> )	10.1	10.1	( <sup>4</sup> )	66.8
Transferred to less-than-4-year	93.8	2.2	4.0	47.2	32.8	0.0	13.8	0.0	0.6	16.3	16.3	0.0	36.6
Transferred to 4-year	61.2	0.7	38.1	59.5	0.6	2.8	12.3	18.3	25.6	25.9	2.8	23.2	14.5
Average number of months													
enrolled at first institution	14.2	15.5	28.3	20.4	11.9	( <sup>5</sup> )	25.6	26.2	22.5	24.8	27.3	20.2	11.4

<sup>1</sup> For students who earned more than one credential at the first institution, the first credential they earned.

<sup>2</sup> Highest degree attained at any institution. Students who have attained may also be enrolled.

<sup>3</sup> Almost all of those enrolled at less-than-4-year institutions were enrolled at 2-year institutions.

<sup>4</sup> Not applicable.

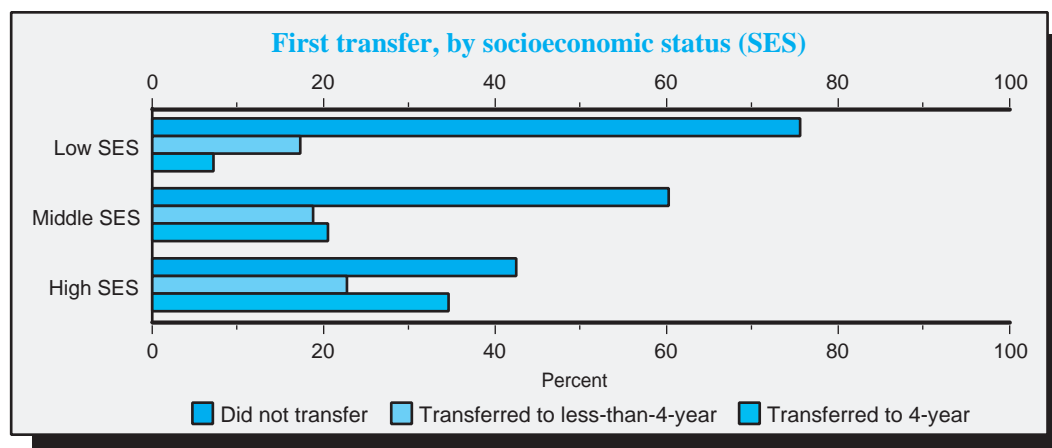
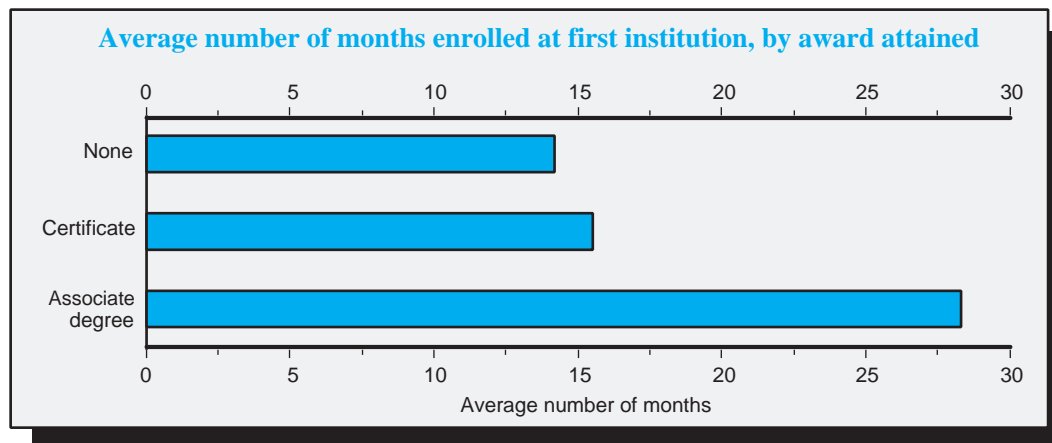
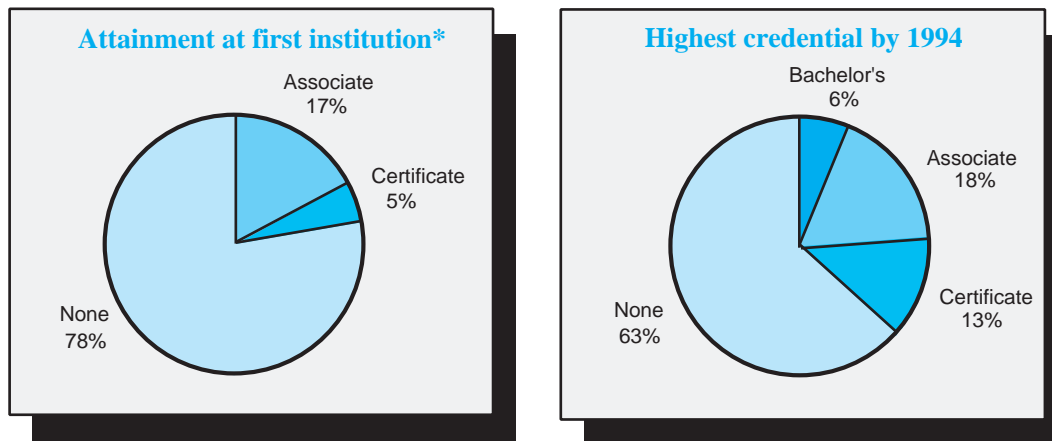
<sup>5</sup> Too few sample observations for a reliable estimate.

NOTE: Details may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94).

## Attainment and enrollment among 1989–90 community college entrants

Percentage distribution of attainment outcomes



\* For students who earned more than one credential at the first institution, the first credential they earned.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94).

**Table 11-1** Among 1989–90 beginning students at community colleges, percentage distribution according to transfer status, by selected characteristics

Selected characteristics	Did not transfer	First transfer, by destination <sup>1</sup>				
		Total	Public 4-year	Private 4-year	Public less-than-4-year	Private less-than-4-year
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Sex						
Male	57.4	42.6	20.3	2.8	12.7	6.8
Female	58.2	41.8	18.1	3.6	15.6	4.5
Race/ethnicity						
White	59.2	40.8	19.4	3.5	13.0	4.9
Black	60.9	39.1	11.4	3.4	19.4	5.0
Hispanic	48.6	51.4	20.1	2.4	17.2	11.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
American Indian/Alaskan Native	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Parents' educational attainment						
Less than high school graduate	68.0	32.0	5.7	0.2	14.9	11.1
High school graduate	64.1	35.9	17.8	3.4	10.5	4.3
Some postsecondary	55.1	44.9	20.7	3.3	14.7	6.3
Bachelor's degree	48.0	52.0	26.3	1.5	17.3	6.9
Advanced degree	26.7	73.3	39.1	10.8	22.5	1.1
Socioeconomic status						
Lowest quartile	75.6	24.4	5.8	1.4	13.4	3.9
Middle two quartiles	60.4	39.6	17.6	3.1	12.6	6.3
Highest quartile	42.5	57.5	30.1	4.6	17.2	5.6
Family income <sup>3</sup>						
Less than \$20,000	55.5	44.5	18.5	3.1	15.4	7.5
20,000–39,999	48.1	51.9	28.8	3.7	12.3	7.1
40,000–59,999	48.3	51.7	27.3	4.5	14.9	4.9
60,000 or more	41.1	58.9	29.7	6.8	20.8	1.6
Age as of 12/31/89						
18 years or younger	42.3	57.7	29.6	5.3	17.3	5.5
19 years	60.1	39.9	20.4	1.9	14.9	2.8
20–29 years	72.3	27.7	9.0	1.8	9.4	7.7
30 years or older	78.8	21.2	2.5	1.0	11.7	6.1
Expected educational attainment						
Less than 2 years of postsecondary education	88.6	11.4	3.9	0.0	7.3	0.3
2 to 3 years of postsecondary education	76.2	23.8	3.2	0.0	12.2	8.4
Bachelor's degree or higher	47.0	53.1	27.1	4.8	15.9	5.4
High school credential						
High school diploma	56.5	43.5	20.4	3.5	13.8	5.8
Equivalency certificate	73.9	26.1	2.7	0.0	19.1	4.3
None	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Diploma/delayed entry status						
Diploma, did not delay	46.0	54.0	28.5	4.5	15.4	5.5
Diploma, delayed entry	72.6	27.4	7.9	1.9	11.3	6.2
No diploma	73.5	26.5	4.5	0.0	18.0	4.1

**Table 11-1 Among 1989–90 beginning students at community colleges, percentage distribution according to transfer status, by selected characteristics—Continued**

Selected characteristics	Did not transfer	First transfer, by destination <sup>1</sup>				
		Total	Public 4-year	Private 4-year	Public less-than-4-year	Private less-than-4-year
Self-rating of academic ability						
Above average	50.4	49.7	26.9	5.6	11.7	5.5
Average or below	60.5	39.5	16.7	2.6	14.8	5.4
Marital status in 1989–90						
Never married	51.3	48.8	23.7	4.0	14.6	6.4
Married	82.8	17.3	5.4	0.1	9.0	2.7
Divorced/separated/widowed	71.9	28.1	5.3	2.2	12.7	7.9
Number of children in 1989–90						
None	52.8	47.2	23.2	3.9	14.2	5.9
One	81.1	18.9	2.8	2.3	10.8	3.0
Two	78.6	21.4	5.7	0.3	9.0	6.4
Three or more	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Enrollment status in 1989–90						
Exclusively full time	48.0	52.0	28.2	3.3	14.5	6.1
Mixed	43.6	56.4	22.1	9.3	16.3	8.7
Exclusively part time	70.4	29.6	9.0	2.8	12.5	5.3
Enrollment status, first term						
Full time	48.2	51.8	29.2	4.0	13.5	5.2
At least half time, less than full time	59.4	40.6	12.8	3.1	18.9	5.8
Less than half time	75.5	24.5	7.3	1.6	10.1	5.5
Grade point average in 1989–90						
Below 2.75	53.0	47.0	22.7	2.8	15.3	6.2
2.75–3.24	52.9	47.1	26.3	0.9	15.6	4.3
3.25 or higher	63.3	36.8	15.7	5.7	12.5	2.9
Academic integration in 1989–90 <sup>4</sup>						
Low	70.6	29.4	11.2	0.0	10.5	7.7
Moderate	56.5	43.5	20.0	4.9	12.5	6.1
High	55.7	44.3	14.4	7.9	19.6	2.4
Social integration in 1989–90 <sup>5</sup>						
Low	81.3	18.7	6.8	2.2	7.8	1.9
Moderate	48.9	51.1	25.6	4.5	13.0	8.0
High	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Degree goal in 1989–90 <sup>6</sup>						
Not working toward degree	65.6	34.4	4.9	3.8	14.9	10.8
Certificate/license	87.3	12.7	0.5	1.9	4.5	5.9
Associate degree	56.1	43.9	18.7	4.2	15.5	5.6
Bachelor's degree	40.3	59.7	36.5	2.2	16.2	4.8
Degree program in 1989–90 <sup>7</sup>						
Undergraduate certificate	57.0	43.0	13.1	3.7		
Associate degree	56.5	43.6	21.5	3.3	13.8	4.9
Bachelor's degree	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Other undergraduate	63.3	36.8	14.3	3.0	14.8	4.7

**Table 11-1** Among 1989–90 beginning students at community colleges, percentage distribution according to transfer status, by selected characteristics—Continued

Selected characteristics	Did not transfer	First transfer, by destination <sup>1</sup>				
		Total	Public 4-year	Private 4-year	Public less-than-4-year	Private less-than-4-year
Months enrolled in 1989–90						
1–6 months	66.6	33.4	7.0	1.6	17.3	7.6
7–9 months	63.1	36.9	20.8	1.6	9.1	5.4
10–12 months	47.0	53.1	28.9	5.7	14.5	4.0
Received aid in 1989–90						
No	58.1	41.9	17.7	2.9	15.6	5.7
Yes	57.3	42.7	22.9	4.0	10.4	5.6
Received grant in 1989–90						
No	58.1	41.9	17.9	3.3	15.3	5.4
Yes	57.0	43.0	22.9	3.1	10.7	6.3
Received loan in 1989–90						
No	57.5	42.5	19.2	3.3	14.4	5.6
Yes	64.4	35.6	17.7	2.4	9.8	5.8
Employed while enrolled <sup>8</sup>						
None	78.5	21.5	6.4	0.3	13.0	1.8
1–50 percent	40.6	59.4	26.6	3.6	21.1	8.1
More than 50 percent	58.9	41.1	19.2	3.4	12.7	5.7
Hours worked per week while enrolled						
None	55.3	44.7	15.6	2.5	21.7	4.8
1–20 hours	46.8	53.2	32.2	3.3	11.9	5.7
More than 20 hours	61.6	38.4	16.5	3.4	12.7	5.8
Attainment before transfer						
Did not transfer	100.0	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )
Transferred without credential	( <sup>9</sup> )	100.0	37.1	6.9	39.3	16.7
Transferred with certificate	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )	( <sup>9</sup> )
Transferred with associate degree	( <sup>9</sup> )	100.0	79.8	10.8	8.2	1.2

<sup>1</sup> Destination of first transfer. See the supplemental note to this indicator for a definition of transfer.

<sup>2</sup> Too few sample observations for a reliable estimate.

<sup>3</sup> Limited to dependent students.

<sup>4</sup> Examines whether the student attended career-related lectures, participated in study groups with other students, talked about academic matters with faculty, or met with advisor concerning academic plans.

<sup>5</sup> Examines whether the student had contact with faculty outside the class, went places with friends from school, or participated in student assistance center/programs or school clubs.

<sup>6</sup> Student-reported degree goal.

<sup>7</sup> Institution-reported degree program.

<sup>8</sup> Percent of months enrolled in which a student was also employed (1989–94).

<sup>9</sup> Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94).

## Note to Indicator 11: Community college outcomes

The tables and figures presented in this analysis describe outcomes for first-time beginning students in postsecondary education who were enrolled in community colleges in academic year 1989–90. While this represents nearly half of all first-time beginners (45 percent), it represents a minority of the community college student body (22 percent) because it excludes continuing and returning students.

### 1994 attainment at any institution

The columns in the text table and table 11-1 that describe students' attainment and enrollment status as of 1994 characterize students with respect to highest postsecondary award attained and current enrollment status. Some students who attained an associate degree also attained a certificate, and some students who attained a bachelor's degree also attained a certificate or an associate degree. Those who completed a certificate and an associate degree were broken out with respect to enrollment at a 4-year institution. For these students, the "not enrolled at 4-year" column includes students who were enrolled at less-than-4-year institutions and students who were not enrolled.

### Definition of transfer

Since the Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94) does not include information on the transfer of credit between institutions, transfer as defined for this analysis does not imply transfer of credit. Rather, it simply characterizes observed transitions between institutions. For transfer to a less-than-4-year institution, any transition that was not followed by a return to the first institution constitutes a transfer. For transfer to a 4-year institution, any entry into a 4-year institution constitutes a transfer, regardless of subsequent enrollment at the institution of origin.

It is also important to note that the transfer measures refer to the *first* transfer. Students may transfer more than once. For example, some students classified as having transferred to a less-than-4-year institution may have subsequently entered a 4-year institution.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94).

**Table S11**      **Standard errors for the text table in *Indicator 11***

Selected characteristics	1994 attainment at any institution												
	Attainment at first institution			Attained						No degree			
				Certificate			Associate			Enrolled			
				Not en-rolled at 4-year	Enrolled at 4-year		Not en-rolled at 4-year	Enrolled at 4-year	Bache-lor's	Total	Less-than-4-year	4-year	rolled
	None	Certi-ficate	Asso-ciate	Total	4-year	4-year	4-year	4-year	lor's	Total	4-year	4-year	rolled
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Age as of 12/31/89													
18 years or younger	2.5	1.0	2.6	2.6	1.6	0.7	2.3	1.3	2.0	2.1	1.7	1.6	2.7
19 years	4.4	2.5	3.9	4.5	3.4	0.0	3.5	1.6	1.2	3.9	3.4	2.6	4.8
20–29 years	3.4	2.0	2.7	3.8	3.1	0.0	2.1	1.0	1.1	3.1	3.0	1.0	4.3
30 years or older	3.8	2.9	2.2	4.5	3.5	0.0	2.4	0.6	0.6	2.9	2.9	0.0	4.4
Enrollment status, first term													
Full time	2.7	1.3	2.5	2.8	1.8	0.6	2.0	1.2	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.3	2.8
At least half, less than full time	2.6	1.3	2.4	3.6	2.5	0.6	2.9	1.0	1.0	3.5	3.1	2.0	4.0
Less than half time	2.9	2.3	2.2	3.5	3.0	0.0	2.3	0.9	1.3	2.9	2.6	1.8	4.6
First transfer													
Did not transfer	2.4	1.6	2.0	2.5	1.7	(*)	1.9	(*)	(*)	1.6	1.6	(*)	2.5
Transferred to less-than-4-year	2.2	1.5	1.8	4.9	4.2	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.6	3.8	3.8	0.0	4.5
Transferred to 4-year	3.7	0.6	3.6	4.0	0.6	1.4	2.7	3.1	3.8	3.2	1.7	3.0	2.9
Average number of months enrolled at first institution													
enrolled at first institution	0.5	2.1	1.2	0.9	1.1	—	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.9	2.3	0.5

— Not available.

\* Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study, Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94).